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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 19 | Humidity 91% Generally cloudy sky & Rain Sensex 58,191 | Nifty 17,314 | Gold 51,999 | Silver 60,751 | Dollar 82.83 | Euro 80.72 | GBP 91.87

Much awaited, soon-to-be-opened bus terminus at Kalasipalyam will make space, ease choked traffic, shelter commuters

TERMINAL VELOCITY

Facility on 4 acres, 13 guntas at cost of Rs 63.17 cr

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If all goes well, the much-delayed Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus terminus at Kalasipalyam will become operational soon.

The construction of the bus terminus began in August 2016; it was supposed to be completed in 24 months, scheduled to open in 2018, but the deadline was missed. Later, the deadline was extended to December 2019, but again, the contractor missed the date.

"Most of the civil works are completed now. The bus terminus is set to become operational without any delay. Higher authorities are waiting for the Chief Minister to give consent for the inauguration of the terminus," a BMTC assistant executive engineer (civil) said.

Meanwhile, commuters as well as BMTC/KSRTC drivers/conductors want the BMTC to take measures for the inauguration of the bus terminus without any delay. Since 2016, the road adjoining the bus terminus is being used to operate BMTC, KSRTC and private buses which is causing congestion and traffic jams often.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

PIC:KAUSHIK JN

> "Higher authorities are waiting for Chief Minister to give consent for inauguration of the terminus
> — Assistant executive engineer, BMTC

Week-long free bus rides? Wait for it

Bus Priority Week to sensitise commuters/citizens, govt, urban local bodies, politicians about benefits of public transport

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The primary focus of experts as well as civic activists in the city is sustainable mobility and a sound public transport system, thanks to choked traffic and shoddy road infrastructure defaming Benagluru of late.

Meanwhile, the Indian Institute of Science has envisaged 'Bus Priority Week' — a concept to encourage the use of BMTC buses by citizens.

Eight months ago, professor Ashish Verma, convenor of Transport Systems Engineering at IISc, submitted a concept note for the project to the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation — the plan has not been executed yet.

As per the concept, for a week's time, on every road in Bengaluru, with at least two lanes in either direction, one lane would be reserved for buses.

Some of the roads which have less than two lanes and heavy movement of buses plying on different routes, would be made buses-only streets, Verma had suggested to the civic agencies.

"The agenda is to attract as many people as possible to use public transport.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

4 THINGS TO DO

01 For the art lover in you

Bhoomija presents Roysten Abel's 'Weaving Voices', a show which is an immersive aural and visual treat that seamlessly blends music, theatre, and design.t. **When: October 21 & 22**
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

02 Jamming session

Looking for an evening full of music and bonfire, then this you should not miss. Bring your positive energy and your voice for a soulful evening of music. **When: October 19; Where: Lahe Lahe**
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

03 Nishant Suri live

Have a fun night with hilarious Nishant Suri, a perfect way to start your weekend.
When: October 17;
Where: Forum Shantiniketan Mall
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

04 Let's play chess!

Bangalore Chess Club is an open chess community to join and be a part of. Watch, play and make friends along the way.
When: October 30; Where: Lahe Lahe
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

'Not just promotions, go back to 75:25 ratio'

State competitive exam aspirants object to government order to fill 100% KREIS vacancies through promotion, demand provision for direct hiring too

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Karnataka State Competitive Examination Aspirants Association (KSCEAA) has raised an objection against the recent government order which amends rules to fill 100% of vacancies of principals and other equivalent posts in Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) through promotions.

The aspirants showed concerns about their future if all the positions are to be filled by promotions only. Bhavya Narasimhamurthy, president of KSCEAA, told Bangalore Mirror that they want the government to go back to its '75:25' policy.

"Before 2018, 75% of the positions were filled through direct recruitment and the rest through promotion. Later they reversed it, so 25% were only filled through direct recruitment and 75% through promotion. Now they have sent out a notification saying that all 100% will be filled by promotions. So what will youngsters do now?" Narasimhamurthy said.

KREIS is a group of residential schools under the Central government's Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya with the aim of providing quality education to socially and educationally backward people. It aims at helping them pursue higher studies and thereby bringing them to the mainstream of society. The society has 826 schools and pre-university colleges under it.

The order pertains to vacancies of principals, other posts

> **"For positions like principals, you need new ideas and fresh minds. How can you mandate all the positions to be filled by promotions only**
>
> – Bhavya Narasimhamurthy, President of KSCEAA

"For positions like principals, you need new ideas and fresh minds. There is so much requirement, how can you mandate all the positions to be filled by promotions only," Narasimhamurthy added.

The association issued the objection letter to the secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice, on October 11. The aspirants complain about an existing unemployment issue in the state and that this new government has proven to be unfair to job aspirants. Another concern that the association has raised is the irregularity in the recruitment process. The aspirants have to wait for several years for new notifications.

Other issues

KSCEAA represents issues in recruitment by KPSC, KSP, KEA, and KFD. The association says that there are several other issues in the recruitment process by these authorities.

"Another issue is that in any of the state government examinations, there is no recognition or reservations for persons with orthopaedic disabilities. All the central examinations like UPSC have reservations for the same. This issue also, we have requested the government to consider," Narasimhamurthy said.

The association has already been protesting against the scams in the recruitment process for KAS posts and has demanded transparency in the process.

Make Deepawali safe for our furry friends

Citizens meet to discuss ways to ensure pets are comforted; experts think of ways to keep strays safe

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With the festival of lights around the corner, many concerned animal lovers are coming forward to spread awareness on how to keep dogs safe this Deepawali. A discussion was held recently with different organisations to help people understand what measures can be taken to keep dogs at ease. The loud noises of firecrackers make dogs scared and anxious, hence an awareness programme aimed at teaching how to comfort dogs was held. The drive was carried out by the CJ Memorial Trust along with the Indiranagar Canine Squad.

Priya Chetty Rajagopal, from the CJ Memorial Trust along with Sowjanya S Vijaynagar, Canine Behaviourist and Lavani Das from Indiranagar Canine Squad carried out the discussion along with the citizens of Bengaluru. Sowjanya explained that it is best to give dogs full rest a week before Diwali. Changing their time of food is important as many dogs tend to lose their appetite. It would be ideal to feed them before the cracker bursting starts.

Loud noises make the dogs anxious and they tend to lose appetite

For the street dogs, the experts suggested talking to people around to get some safe place for them or find temporary shelter. They also suggested putting name tags with one's contact details, in case they get displaced. One should even call local police in case of an accident and take the injured to a hospital for treatment immediately.

Sowjanya said, "For the pet dogs, it is important to not wake up a sleeping dog. Dogs need time to decompress during this stage. They require good sleeping time, as many dogs tend to get fearful and anxious with the crackers and any rest they get during the day will help them."

It was further suggested to schedule the dog's walk at a time when there is less noise. It is also important to keep a lot of drinking water at various places. Try to keep them calm as much as possible which makes them better equipped to face loud noises. Spend time with them and do not leave them alone.

Rajagopal added, "One needs to keep their area station inspectors number handy to call and alert if the cracker bursting goes beyond 8 pm. The BBMP should carry out awareness on green crackers and the police to make announcements in advance before bursting crackers."

Talk about priorities: Give roads a good wash

BBMP plans to spend Rs 4.6 crore to procure pressure jet cleaners

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If cleanliness is what is most lacking on Bengaluru roads, worry not, for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has a solution. After procuring mechanical sweeping machines, the civic agency is now planning to buy mechanical jet cleaners. The civic body recently called tenders to procure pressure jet cleaner/washer machines at a cost of Rs 4.6 crore. These machines have a capacity to store and utilise 10,000 litres of water and to be used in the pedestrian ways and CBD roads.

BBMP officials said there have been complaints of dust allergy in the city due to accumulation of dust on the roads. So, merely sweeping was not enough and there was a need to use high pressure jets to wash the roads. So, it has decided to take the mechanical route. There is a rider though -- the machines will be first pressed into action only in high-profile areas. As per the plan, these machines are to be used in roads within the five-kilometre radius of Vidhana Soudha to begin with.

"We can use the jet machines to flush out the dust from white-topped and TENDERsure roads. These machines can be used in the night between 11 pm and 5 am. We hope to clear the pedestrian footpaths as well," said a BBMP official adding that the five machines can be utilised to 'wash' 40 km of the road on a daily basis.

The money will be spent on these machines under the Shubra Bengaluru project. "Though the Pourkarmikas are cleaning the road, the dust settles on it so it needs high pressure washing," said another BBMP official. BBMP is also estimating another Rs 1.58 crore for the annual maintenance of these machines. The company which wins the contract will be permitted to maintain and operate these machines for a period of three years.

Officials say that only recycled water will be used for the process. BBMP is estimating that it would require at least 50,000 litres a day to wash the 40-km stretch. Recycled water will be bought from BWSSB's recycling plant at Cubbon park.

However, this grand plan is not receiving an all-out enthusiastic response. "BBMP comes up with fancy ideas time and again but they fall flat on implementation. Earlier, BBMP had procured the sweeping machines. Though these machines are used, we hardly see any difference. I wonder whether the machines are really useful for a city like Bengaluru," said Shiva Kumar, a citizens' activist. He wondered if the BBMP would be able to do a neat job. "We hope this project doesn't end up with another project which will help contractors and officials rather than the people. So, we request BBMP to ensure that these kinds of projects are executed well," said Shiva Kumar.

'Snake entered centre, was handled gently'

With reference to a complaint to the Deputy Conservator of Forest, Chikkaballapur Taluk, regarding the handling of a rat snake by Sadhguru, the Isha Foundation has issued a clarification that the snake had entered the centre and Sadhguru had handled it gently. He had asked that the snake be let out in the wild, it was stated. The foundation further said that the snake was not transported or captured as the complaint states. Further, police present at the venue were aware of the incident, the statement reveals.

Halt to use of animals at CAF

The use of animal for experimentation at the Central Animal Facility (CAF), IISc has been halted from Sunday. A letter was sent out to the CAF users that all animal experimentation stands temporarily suspended with immediate effect. The letter noted that this move comes after a note from Member Secretary, Committee for the Purpose of Control And Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) listing some deficiencies at CAF that were cited in a report submitted by the CPCSEA nominee.

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‘Better management, less flooding in city’

Experts suggest tweaking stormwater drain design for better percolation of water

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An open stormwater drain in Bengaluru posing a threat to commuters and pedestrians (File photo)

Citizen groups are pressurising the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for removal of encroachments on stormwater drains (SWD) and management of surface water as the flooding issue continues in the city.

In the beginning of this year, Namma Bengaluru Foundation (NBF), an NGO that works to protect the rights of Bengaluru and its citizens, sought information from the BBMP Stormwater Drains Department regarding the removal of encroachments on such drains in all eight city zones.

Vinod Jacob from NBF said, “Rains bring a lot of issues to people in the city. Every monsoon over the last decade has seen no improvement in management. The stormwater drains and lakes network has not been restored or repaired to handle the capacity of rainfall that the city receives.”

“Incessant flooding during the rains is common and citizens have been affected by flood water reaching their homes. The SWD design should be changed for ground percolation of water since most of them are concreted and the water just flows away rather than recharging groundwater. The city is topographically blessed, and if the SWDs, rajakaluves, and lakes are networked well, we will not be having this flooding issue,” he added.

Out of the eight zones, NBF received responses from five zones stating that most of the encroachments in their respective zones have been cleared. Even though the authorities claim that they have undertaken work, the NGO still reports waterlogging and flooding in low-lying areas.

> **“If the drains are in good condition and are not severely encroached upon, they will be able to do their job and there wouldn’t be any flooding**
> –V Ramprasad, Friends of lakes

The periodical maintenance, desilting exercise, and repairs of SWDs need to be revisited, calendar maintained, and audited by an external agency, Jacob added.

In November 2021, the Chief Minister stated that around 2,626 encroached structures were identified on SWDs. Of these, 1,480 were cleared in 2018-19 and 428 in 2016-17. He had instructed the officials to clear the remaining 714 encroachments at the earliest.

Experts and activists have also shown concern about the drainage system in the city.

V Ramprasad from Friends of Lakes said, “If the drains are in good condition and are not severely diverted or encroached upon, they will be able to do their job and there wouldn’t be any flooding in a city like Bangalore.”

“More importantly, urban planning in the city has to become very robust and dynamic and look for solutions that are sustainable,” he added.

Ramprasad also showed concerns about the Swachh Survekshan 2022 ranking in which Bengaluru ranked 43rd out of 45 cities.

“We are not able to keep the drains free of garbage and Swachh Survekshan has proved it. One of the major reasons is the SWD department,” he said.

NBF also stressed the importance of the ARC GIS mapping system to map the city’s contour level and gradient.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has this system which can be used, and the elevation profiling of the city can be done to prevent flooding.

Week of free bus rides in Bengaluru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

By making buses free, it could be done. Thereby, more people can experience and testify to the tangible benefits of buses. Different government and private organisations and educational institutions can be roped in and encouraged to provide incentives to their employees/students for commuting to office or institutions by bus during the test bed week,” Dr Verma explained.

He also recommended different businesses — shops, restaurants etc. — to be encouraged to provide incentives (through discounts and such) to bus users for the particular week.

Setbacks

Though the plan is expected to increase bus-ridership and lower the stigma around BMTC buses and their services, there are still many hurdles on the way that need to be tackled before it can be implemented.

The plan is expected to increase bus ridership in city (File photo)

For instance, there are not enough buses in the BMTC fleet to accommodate the city’s burgeoning population.

When BMTC made its services free for all commuters this year on August 15, as part of its 25th anniversary, as many as 61.47 lakh passengers availed the free utility. However, though the ridership increased, it was noticed that the BMTC fleet could not accommodate the large number of commuters. In fact, overcrowding inside the buses was reported in several areas.

“Bus Priority Week requires a lot of planning. The idea of making it free is to let maximum people experience the benefits of the priority week. So that all sets of stakeholders whether it is the commuters, government officials, urban local bodies, politicians, everyone get a better understanding. But of course if they just run the same number of buses, it is going to be insufficient. So they need to deploy a large number of buses anticipating that many more people will avail their services. It has to be planned properly involving impact assessment — what dimensions to be considered for the assessment, how to collect data, etc. It cannot be implemented in a day or two without doing all this planning,” Verma told Bangalore Mirror.

Dr Verma also added that though BMTC officials have agreed that it is an important project, not much has been done so far to take this idea further.

BMTC director (IT), AV Surya Sen, said since a lot of agencies are involved in the project plan, they cannot predict the future of the drive yet: “DULT has sent a proposal to the BBMP. We have to coordinate with the NHAI and traffic police. We do not know when it can be tested yet as many stakeholders are to be considered.”

The idea of the Bus Priority Week was first proposed on February 15, 2022 during a public meeting organised by the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV). The test bed is expected to potentially demonstrate how key service gaps related to affordability, reliability, accessibility, etc. can be improved for all sections of society in the city.

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Separate the waste

Kithiganur

Garbage is not being segregated in the Kithiganur area.

Water leakage

Lingarajapuram

Below Lingarajapuram flyover, water has been leaking for many years.

Potholes spotted

Mahadevapura

There are potholes on ORR-DRDO Junction in Mahadevapura.

Life in Namma Metro: The ups & downs of getting things on track

Up your parking game, BMRCL

With more people using metro, they want well managed parking spaces

KAUSHIK JN

Commuters have complained about the parking spaces being muddy

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Commuters who regularly use the metro say that the parking spaces provided for them are not managed properly. They have also said that during rains, the place becomes quite muddy.

They have observed that the parking space in Byappanahalli Metro Station is where this problem is prevalent.

Rajitha Sharma, a commuter, said, "The parking space is full, which is a good sign because it means that more people are using public transport for commuting. However, the space needs to be managed properly, because whenever it rains, it gets very muddy and extremely difficult for us to take our vehicles in and out."

Some of the commuters also said that the space was not constructed properly. Ashish K, another regular metro user, said, "The parking space is not constructed carefully. There are quite a few potholes on the way ,and it creates inconveniences for all of us who are using the area."

> **The parking space is not constructed properly. There are quite a few potholes on the way, and it creates inconveniences for all of us using it**
>
> –Ashish K, metro user

Some of the commuters pointed out that the craters get filled with water during rains, which adds to the problem.

Astha Sudhanjula, another commuter, said, "Due to the heavy rains and the reduced cost of travelling, people are increasingly using public transport, especially the metro, but poor conditions of parking lots will demotivate the people from continuing to do so. Now that it is raining, I am using the metro to commute. However, the parking lot was quite messy. Water had filled up inside the potholes and the road was quite muddy too. My scooter slipped twice while going inside."

People have also pointed out that in some metro stations, such as the one in Silk Institute, there are no parking lots at all. In Doddakallasandra, a small parking space is available. If one has to commute using the metro, they would be forced to park their vehicle four kilometres away from the station.

Sudhir M Nair, also a commuter, said, "In order to encourage more people to use the metro, it is important that basic facilities, such as a well-maintained parking space, should be made available to all. The authorities should immediately fix the metro parking spaces and have in place guards who will look into the smooth operation of the place to avoid any kind of confusion."

Yashwant Chavan, PRO, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), said that he would look into the existing problems.

Work under observation

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Having steered the metro project off the All Saints Church property, church members, along with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), sought the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage's (INTACH) help in monitoring the impact of metro work and damage on the church.

As a part of the initial assessment, BMRCL was given standards which should not be exceeded, fearing damage to the building.

After many protests by environmentalists, civic activists, and church members, BMRCL decided to not acquire a portion of the church for metro construction.

People opposed the land acquisition over risk to the 150-year-old church building and the felling of over 100 trees. In May, 2022, BMRCL decided to take only 166 sqm as against the earlier proposed area of 4,583 sqm. In addition, they will also take 218 sqm temporarily. The decision also stated that seven trees were to be felled as against 100 earlier, but even now, metro work is ongoing and church members are still worried about damage to the heritage building.

A team from INTACH visited the church in May and performed structural integrity tests to evaluate the building's condition. Now, with tunnel work growing closer to the church, the INTACH team will be monitoring impact regularly.

A member of the church committee, Ebenezer Premkumar, said that the study was conducted at the insistence of the church members with the coordination of BMRCL. "Before they start, we wanted to ascertain any damage to the building - especially the foundation. We had concerns with the underground tunnel work" he added.

A view of the All Saints Church in Bengaluru

> **Before they start, we wanted to ascertain any damage to the building**
>
> –Ebenezer Premkumar, Committee member, All Saints Church

A four-member team from INTACH comprising of Shikha Desai, conservation architect, Lester Silveria, architect, Sriram Prabhu, architecture intern, and Pankaj Modi, Technical coordinator carried out an initial assessment in April and collected data about the condition of the church building before the commencement of construction.

Desai said, "We conducted foundation profiling and studied the condition of wooden rafters, stain glasses, and composition of the masonry, and opened up the joint between the wooden trusses and buttresses to understand the joinery. We also collected data from BMRCL to understand the network of the metro line."

The team did not observe any stress on the building pre-construction.

After running tests, they have found points that could be vulnerable to tunnel work and will be monitored for changes.

"We will alert officials in case of stress. On-site data will be calculated with instruments placed on the heritage building. BMRCL has already been advised not to exceed certain parameters as per our assessment," she added.

Here's why KC General Hospital is 'platinum'

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The government run KC General Hospital in Bengaluru received platinum certification for their labour room under the Laqshya programme with a 98 per cent score for a period of one year.

In the year 2017, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the Laqshya programme to reduce maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. It also aimed to improve quality of care during delivery and in the post-partum period, provide positive birthing experiences, and to offer respectful maternity care to all pregnant women attending public health facilities.

> **In 2017, Ministry of Health and Family welfare launched 'Laqshya' to reduce maternal, newborn morbidity and mortality; it also aimed to improve quality of post-partum care**

A team of empanelled National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) external assessors carried out the assessment which showcased that the labour room and maternity operation theatre of the hospital met the required criteria.

Facilities scoring more than 90 per cent, 80 per cent, and 70 per cent are given platinum, gold, and silver certification, respectively. Facilities achieving NQAS certification, defined quality indicators, and 80 per cent score are provided an incentive of Rs six lakh, Rs three lakh, and Rs two lakh for Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals, and other hospitals, respectively.

The assessment was carried out in July, and different factors like infection control, support services, outcome indicators, and equipment were observed.

Randeep D, Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, said, "I am extremely happy that KC General Hospital was granted quality certification for their labour room under Laqshya with a platinum badge. I congratulate all the doctors and hospital staff."

Kalasipalyam bus terminus 'soon'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We have been suffering a lot due to the delay in opening the terminus for buses. Traffic jams have become routine during the peak hours on the road around the terminus. We do not have basic amenities on this road," a BMTC bus conductor told BM.

A KSRTC bus driver expressed disappointment over the delay in inaugurating the newly built bus terminus. He said there is hardly any space for parking or halting KSRTC buses on the aforesaid road which is already choked with traffic and BMTC/private buses.

"I want the authorities concerned, including Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and minister for transport B Sriramulu, to take measures to open the terminus soon," the driver added.

With no bus shelters on the road, commuters waiting to board BMTC, KSRTC and private buses have to brave pouring rain or blistering sun.

"We have to run to nearby shops for shelter whenever it rains as there are no bus shelters on the road adjoining the yet-to-be-opened, newly built, terminus. There is a lot of dust during sunny days. It will be a great relief for commuters if the authorities opened the new terminus," said Krishne Gowda, a KSRTC passenger.

The bus terminus has been built on 4 acres,13 guntas of land at an estimated cost of Rs 63.17 crore. It has 50,000 sq ft space on the first floor for commercial use. The facility has six bays for operating KSRTC buses, six bays for operating private buses with national permit and the remaining space is reserved for BMTC buses. The then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah laid the foundation stone for the terminus on August 18, 2016.

"The space allocated for BMTC can accommodate 18 buses at a time. We have provided all basic amenities including parking space that can accommodate 120 four-wheelers and 100 two-wheelers," BMTC assistant executive engineer (civil) said, adding that the local MLA (Chickpet) Uday Garudachar also wants the bus terminus to become operational as early as possible.

After inauguration, the terminus is expected to reduce congestion and traffic jams around Kalasipalyam and the Krishna Rajendra Market.

9, including 4 children, killed in vehicle pile-up

Nine people, including four children, were killed and 10 injured in a pile-up involving three vehicles here, police said.

The accident involving a milk tanker, a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus, and a tempo traveller took place in Arsikere taluk here around 11 pm on Saturday, they said.

All those killed were travelling in the tempo traveller, which was crushed between the bus and the milk tanker. While six died on the spot, three succumbed on the way to the hospital, police said.

The injured are undergoing treatment at a hospital here, they said. Expressing grief about the incident, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Mandya, announced a solatium of Rs 2 lakh each to families of nine people who died in the mishap.

People gather at the accident site in Arsikere

"It is extremely sad that 9 people have died in a terrible road accident in Araseikere of Hassan district yesterday. May the departed souls rest in peace," he had earlier tweeted. —PTI

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHASHI KUMARI, Residing at No. 520/432, Flat No. 407, Pyramid North Square, Nehrunagar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name to SHASHI SNEH, vide affidavit dated: 15.10.2022, before notary R. Vishwanath, Bengaluru.

I Vjay Raj Jain S/O, G Vimal Chand Jain R/o No 25/6-1 14th Cross Pipeline Road Vijaynagar Bangalore-40 have changed my name to Vijay Raj Jain for all purposes.

I Shivaraja Singa S/O, Gopal Singh R/o S/o Gopal Singh,7-7-48/22, savitri Colony, raichur, karnataka-584103 have changed my name to Shiva Ram Singh

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

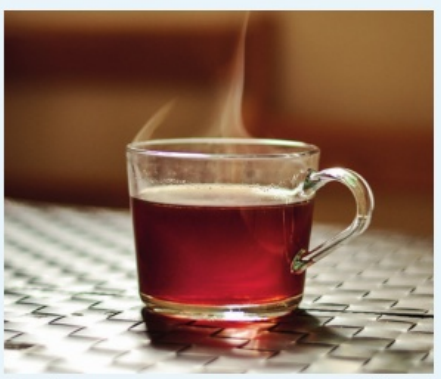
Yakshagana attire

Minister for Health and Medical Education Dr K Sudhakar surprised many when he was spotted in Yakshagana attire recently. The residents of Uttara Kannada district have been pasting posters saying that there are no hospitals in the district. Sudhakar was in the district to find a suitable place for the hospital's construction. He visited the area to give assurance to people. Though Sudhakar didn't participate in Yakshagana, he ensured that there was a photo session before he returned to his regular dress.

Are you up for the challenge?

Many Congress leaders have been joining leader Rahul Gandhi as part of his Bharat Jodo yatra. However, most of these leaders found it hard to match the speed of Rahul Gandhi. Many of the bystanders were heard saying that Rahul walks really fast. However, Rahul is trying every trick up his sleeve to keep his associates enthused. He organised a short race with Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar. Rahul was also seen doing dips and challenging others, and it was Gandhi who won.

Taste for branded tea

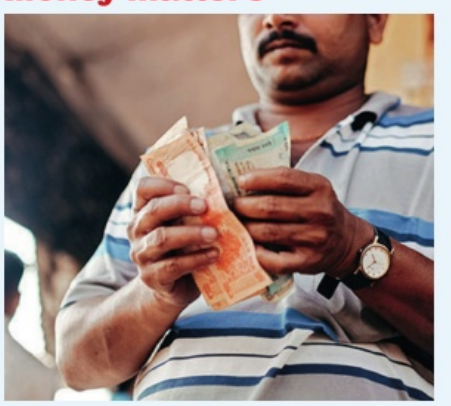


Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and former CM BS Yediyurappa have been visiting many houses to have breakfast as part of the reach-out programme. However, the hosts have to first convince the officials who visit the house prior to the CM's visit. During a breakfast meeting in Hospet recently, the officials along with senior police visited the house much ahead of CM's visit. The official was seen asking the housemates about the breakfast menu. Then the official asked if the hosts were preparing tea as well. When the lady of the house showed them the tea powder she was using, they said, "Please bring a branded tea powder as it is not advisable to prepare tea from a cover which has unbranded tea powder."

Let's be friends

It is an old adage that there are no permanent friends or enemies in politics. But Congress leader Rahul Gandhi seems to be trying hard to forge a friendship between KPCC president DK Shivakumar and Congress legislative party leader Siddaramaiah. During the Bharat Jodo yatra, Gandhi seems to be trying his hand at the 'friendship jodo' programme too. Recently during the yatra, Gandhi was seen asking both DKS and Siddu to hold hands together and walk as it will give a positive signal to the voters as the State is likely to go to polls next year. Both the leaders were seen happily walking by holding hands by displaying their camaraderie. This is not the first time Gandhi attempted to forge this friendship. Earlier during the 75th birthday celebration of Siddaramaiah, Gandhi had made gestures to Shivkumar to give a hug to Siddaramaiah a hug and they did so.

Money matters



Recently Honnali MLA and BJP leader MP Renukacharya were stopped by a mob requesting him to help a snake bite victim. Renukacharya ensured that the victim was transported by auto. However, the people who were gathered were not satisfied. They requested the MLA to help the victim financially as he was from a poor family and could not afford hospital treatment. When Renukacharya was counting currency to hand over the money, the people requested the MLA to give all the money to the victim as he was a poor man and had young children to feed. Taking exception to this, Renukacharya said that he cannot give away all the money but will help the victim to the best of his capacity. Then he handed over a few hundred rupees notes to the victim. The crowd then coerced the MLA to give some more money. **— Sridhar Vivan**

200 citizens meet to reform ward committees

Good turnout at Bengaluru Ward Samiti Balaga Samavesha on Sunday; 76 RWAs attend event

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
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The event was joined by various civil society organisations, NGOs and RWAs such as Janaagraha, BPAC, Sensing Local, and Changemakers of Kanakapura

Around 200 citizens and 76 residents' welfare associations (RWA) attended Bengaluru Ward Samiti Balaga Samavesha held at Government Arts College on Sunday to share their experiences and insights about their ward committees.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath addressed the event organised by various civil society organisations, NGOs and RWAs such as Janaagraha, BPAC, Sensing Local, Changemakers of Kanakapura, Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF), Whitefield Rising, Citizens for Bengaluru (CfB), Citizen Participation Program (BBMP SWM), APSA Bengaluru.

"The meeting was very useful for the participants. We have to go a long way as far as ward committee meetings are concerned but are confident of succeeding in having ward committee meetings on time," said Madhuri Subbarao, convenor, Karnataka Chapter for Confederation of Residents' Welfare Associations.

HR Sreenivasa Rao, the coordinator for Citizens for Bengaluru, told Bangalore Mirror that the meeting was very useful for the residents.

"The meeting provided an opportunity for the residents of Bengaluru to discuss various issues. We have also passed a few resolutions and those would be conveyed to political parties," said Subbarao.

The agenda of this meeting was to discuss the status report of the ward committee meetings, the experiences of the participants who regularly attend the meeting, discussion on improving the ward committees, vote on the issues required to be championed during the My City My Budget campaign and Balaga proposal for BBMP election.

Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, while addressing the participants, said that he is aware that citizens would be frustrated with so many civic issues.

"BBMP officials are also frustrated, but we should not let our frustrations stop us from positive action which will come only if we work together with a positive attitude. I request the citizens to monitor solid waste management, the welfare of pourakarmikas, street lights and parks and only people at ward level know how things are working," said Nath.

He said that citizens should approach Zonal Commissioners for resolving issues and all zonal commissioners will be in their zonal offices in the afternoon. Divisional level Executive Engineers also will be held accountable".

> **"The meeting provided an opportunity for the residents of Bengaluru to discuss various issues** – Madhuri Subbarao, Convenor

"Several civic organizations have come together today with the intention to strengthen ward committees and participation in it. All RWAs and citizens have to join their hands towards this. I request every citizen to attend ward committees and work towards strengthening grassroots democracy," said Raghvendra H S, Program Lead, B CLIP

"Nearly 200 people gathered today for the second Bengaluru Ward Samiti Balaga and almost everyone agreed that ward committees have improved. The Balaga decided to appeal to all political parties to include ward committees in their manifesto. The main demands are to select ward committee members in a fair manner and double the size of ward committees, transparency and adherence to the provisions of the law (BBMP Act) are part of the demands. We are grateful to have Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath join us and reiterate his unwavering support to ward committees," said Srinivas Alavilli, Head of Civic Participation, Janaagraha.

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Vaxxing, waning: No new vaccines now

Govt surrenders ₹4,237 crore from vaccination budget

#New Delhi

The government's Covid vaccination programme is in its final leg with the Health Ministry deciding against procuring more vaccines as of now and surrendering Rs 4,237 crore, or nearly 85 per cent of the 2022-23 budget allocation for inoculation purposes, to the Finance Ministry.

Official sources told PTI that more than 1.8 crore doses are still available with the governments at the Centre and in states and the stock is sufficient to continue the vaccination drive for around six months, given the low uptake of vaccines among people due to declining Covid case burden.

Even if the government's stock gets exhausted, Covid vaccines will be available in the market.

"Any decision on whether to procure Covid vaccine doses through the government channel or get (fresh) budget allocations for the purpose after six months will depend on the coronavirus situation prevailing in the country at that time," an official source told PTI.

As part of the nationwide vaccination drive which began on January 16 last year, the Government of India has been supporting states and Union territories by providing them covid-19 vaccines free of cost.

Since the Covid cases have been low, a sense of complacency has grown among people and there has not been much demand of vaccines even though the government conducted a 75-day drive -- 'Covid Vaccination Amrit Mahotsava' -- to administer booster doses to all adults free of cost.

"Considering this and the vaccines in the stockpile nearing their expiry date, the decision has been taken not to procure any more vaccines for now. Also, the Union Health Ministry has surrendered to the Finance Ministry the balance of Rs 4,237.14 crore from its 2022-23 budget allocation of Rs 5,000 crore for inoculation purposes," the source said. The cumulative Covid vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 219.32 crore, according to provisional reports till 7 am on Sunday.

Official sources said 98 per cent of India's adult population has received at least one dose of the covid -19 vaccine while 92 per cent have been fully vaccinated.

Besides, 83.7 per cent of adolescents aged 15 to 18 years have been vaccinated with the first dose since the vaccination for this age group began on January 3, while 72 per cent have got both the first and second doses. – PTI

A woman receives the Covaxin coronavirus vaccine in Rajasthan (File)

'Hindi for jobs' plan: Stalin writes to PM

#Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday staunchly opposed what he called a Parliamentary panel's "recommendation" that for specific jobs, aspirants should have learnt the Hindi language.

Writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Stalin referred to media reportage on a report of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages. Days after his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to Modi taking exception to the panel's recommendation, Stalin followed suit.

Stalin said: "It has been reported that the Committee, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, submitted its report to the President of India, wherein inter-alia, has recommended that Hindi should be the compulsory medium of instruction in educational institutions of the Union government such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and central universities and Hindi should replace English."

It also includes a recommendation that Hindi shall be made as the medium of instruction in all technical, non-technical institutions and all the Union government institutions including Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin

The CM, who is also the president of the ruling DMK said that it has been recommended by the panel that, "youth would be eligible for certain jobs only if they had studied Hindi, and removal of English (is proposed) as one of the compulsory papers in recruitment exams."

Such proposals went against the federal principles of Constitution and would only harm the nation's multi-lingual fabric, he said. On October 10, Stalin, in a statement appealed to Modi to give up attempts to "make Hindi mandatory" and uphold the nation's unity. "Do not force another language war by imposing Hindi," the DMK chief had said. In Tamil Nadu, DMK and CPI(M) are allies. – PTI

Excise policy scam: CBI summons to Sisodia, AAP smells poll plot

#New Delhi

In the wake of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) summoning Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia for questioning in the alleged excise policy corruption case, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj on Sunday claimed that Sisodia "will be arrested tomorrow". He also tried to draw parallels between the CBI summoning Sisodia with the upcoming Gujarat elections.

According to Bhardwaj, the BJP is scared of AAP in Gujarat as it is competing with them. "CBI has summoned Manish Sisodia and will arrest him tomorrow. It has been alleged that a huge scam of Rs 10,000 crore has taken place and for that CBI and ED (Enforcement Directorate) have raided at atleast 500 places so far. CBI raided Sisodia's residence for 14 hours, but they could not find anything," said AAP MLA Saurabh Bhardwaj.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia at an event at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

"This is directly linked with Gujarat elections as AAP competes with the BJP there," he said. – ANI

'TV actor was harassed by neighbour'

#Indore

Vaishali Thakkar, the actor of the small screen's famous show 'Sasural Simar Ka', has died by suicide and a suicide note has been found which points out that she was harassed by her neighbour.

"TV actress Vaishali Thakkar, committed suicide by hanging herself at her residence in Sai Bagh Colony, under Tejaji police station limits in Indore, an official said on Sunday.

A suicide note was also recovered from the spot that suggests that she was stressed and was being harassed by her neighbour, Businessman, Rahul Navlani.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Moti ur Rehman told ANI," Rahul was Viashali's neighbour and the suicide note indicates that he used to harass Vaishali, because of which she took such an extreme step. She was about to get married to another man and Rahul troubled her for that. The police are currently investigating the case."

"Rahul is currently not at his residence and has fled after locking his house. Police are currently locating Rahul, after that he will be questioned," ACP Rehman added. – ANI

'Chinese military will intensify readiness to fight & win'

#Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Sunday that the Chinese military headed by him will intensify troop training and combat preparedness to "fight and win" besides creating a strong system of "strategic deterrence."

Xi said this while presenting his work report to the once-in-a-five-year Congress of the ruling Communist Party which began its week-long session here on Sunday.

"We will intensify troop training and enhance combat preparedness across the board to see that our people's armed forces can fight and win," he said. In the 63-page report, Xi, who also heads the Central Military Commission (CMC) - the overall high command of the two million-strong People's Liberation Army (PLA) - devoted a special section to the military titled "Achieving the Central Goal of the PLA and Further Modernising National Defence and Military".

WORLD

Chinese President Xi Jinping at the National Congress of Communist Party in Beijing

The plans outlined by him acquire significance for the Indian military forces considering the frictions at the Sino-Indian border, especially in eastern Ladakh since May 2020 triggered by offensive actions by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) that had strained bilateral ties.

Both sides resolved some of the issues through 16 rounds of talks and agreed to hold more talks to resolve the pending issues.

In his report, Xi said achieving the goals for the centenary of the PLA in 2027 and more quickly elevating China's People's armed forces to world-class standards are strategic tasks for building a modern socialist country in all respects. – PTI

HEALTH TIP: The overconsumption of sugars and refined carbohydrates causes the liver to convert the excess into fat

Walnuts contain ellagic acid, an antioxidant compound that helps support a healthy immune system

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Miracles of regeneration

Helping liver regenerate itself could give patients with end-stage liver disease treatment option besides waiting for transplant

The liver is known for its ability to regenerate. It can completely regrow itself even after two-thirds of its mass has been surgically removed. But damage from medications, alcohol abuse, or obesity can eventually cause the liver to fail. Currently, the only effective treatment for end-stage liver disease is transplantation.

However, there is a dearth of organs available for transplantation. Patients may have to wait from 30 days to over five years to receive a liver for transplant.

But what if, instead of liver transplantation, there was a drug that could help the liver regenerate itself?

I am the founding director of the Pittsburgh Liver Research Center and run a lab studying liver regeneration and cancer. In our recently published research, my team and I found that activating a particular protein with a new medication can help accelerate regeneration and repair after severe liver injury or partial surgical removal in mice.

Key players in liver regeneration

The liver performs over 500 key functions in your body, including producing proteins that carry fat through the body, converting excess glucose into glycogen for storage and breaking down toxins like ammonia, among others.

Liver cells, or hepatocytes, take on these many tasks by a divide-and-conquer strategy, also called zonation. This separates the liver into three zones with different tasks, and cells are directed to perform specialized functions by turning on specific genes active in each zone. However, exactly what controls the expression of these genes has been poorly understood.

Over the past two decades, my team and other labs have identified one group of 19 proteins called Wnts that play an important role in controlling liver function and regeneration. While researchers know that Wnt proteins help activate the repair process in damaged liver cells, which ones actually control zonation and regeneration, as well as their exact location in the liver, have been a mystery.

To identify these proteins and where they came from, my team and I used a new technology called molecular cartography to identify how strongly and where 100 liver function genes are active. We found that only two of 19 Wnt genes, Wnt2 and Wnt9b, were functionally present in the liver. We also found that Wnt2 and Wnt9b were located in the endothelial cells lining the blood vessels in zone 3 of the liver, an area that plays a role in a number of metabolic functions.

> **The liver performs over 500 key functions in the body, including producing proteins that carry fat through the body, converting excess glucose into glycogen**

To our surprise, eliminating these two Wnt genes resulted in all liver cells expressing only genes typically limited to zone 1, significantly limiting the liver's overall function. This finding suggests that liver cells experience an ongoing push and pull in gene activation that can modify their functions, and Wnt is the master regulator of this process.

Eliminating the two Wnt genes from endothelial cells also completely stopped liver cell division, and thus regeneration, after partial surgical removal of the liver.

Liver regeneration after Tylenol overdose

We then decided to test whether a new drug could help recover liver zonation and regeneration. This drug, an antibody called FL6.13, shares similar functions with Wnt proteins, including activating liver regeneration.

Over the course of two days, we gave this drug to mice that were genetically engineered to lack Wnt2 and Wnt9b in their liver endothelial cells. We found that the drug was able to nearly completely recover liver cell division and repair functions.

Lastly, we wanted to test how well this drug worked to repair the liver after a Tylenol overdose. Tylenol, or acetaminophen, is an over-the-counter medication commonly used to treat fever and pain. However, an overdose of Tylenol can cause severe liver damage. Without immediate medical attention, it can lead to liver failure and death.

Tylenol poisoning is one of the most common causes of severe liver injury requiring liver transplantation in the US. Despite this, there is currently only one medication available to treat it, and it is only able to prevent liver damage if taken shortly after overdose.

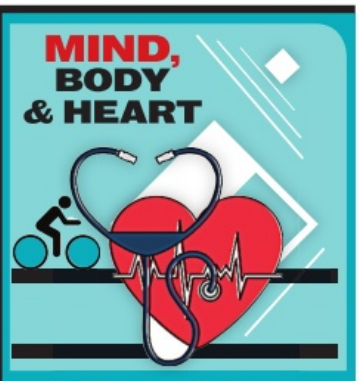
We tested our new drug on mice with liver damage from toxic doses of Tylenol. We found that one dose was able to decrease liver injury biomarkers – proteins the liver releases when injured – in the blood and reduce liver tissue death. These findings indicate that liver cell repair and tissue regeneration are occurring.

Reducing need for transplantation

One way to address liver transplantation shortages is to improve treatments for liver diseases. While current medications can effectively cure hepatitis C, a viral infection that causes liver inflammation, other liver diseases haven't seen the same progress. Because very few effective treatments are available for illnesses like nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and alcoholic liver disease, many patients worsen and end up needing a liver transplant.

My team and I believe that improving the liver's ability to repair itself could help circumvent the need for transplantation. Further study of drugs that promote liver regeneration may help curb the burden of liver disease worldwide.

-By Satdarshan Monga, Professor of Pathology and Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences (The Conversation)



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I love my husband, but he's a sulker. If I tell him not to leave a dirty plate on the side he won't speak to me for the rest of the evening.
This means I end up doing everything myself to avoid a row and then quietly resenting him for it. If we have a proper row he can sometimes go for days without speaking to me, even if other friends or families are around. It's so embarrassing, and exhausting to live with.
I've tried talking to him about it but this makes him sulk even more. I feel like I have to tiptoe around him constantly, and I can't help thinking his sulking is another form of being controlling. After all, I daren't upset him in case he gives me the silent treatment. We don't have any children and we're both in our mid sixties. What should I do?

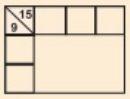
COLEEN SAYS

Oh I've been here. Get out, is my advice. Just leave him. I know exactly what you're going through because that's what I lived with when I was with my ex-husband. I put up with it for years. Men like this don't believe in talking, they only believe in sulking, and it leaves those around them mentally battered. People think shouting is bad, but silence can be even worse. It's just horrendous and so isolating. I just got to the point where I didn't want to live like that anymore.
I know my advice sounds so negative, and that I should be giving you solutions and hope, but until he's willing to acknowledge, accept and change his behaviour, then life is going to stay like this. He's in his sixties too, and people don't really change. My ex couldn't even change when I told him if he didn't, our marriage would end. So either accept that he's just like this, or move on.

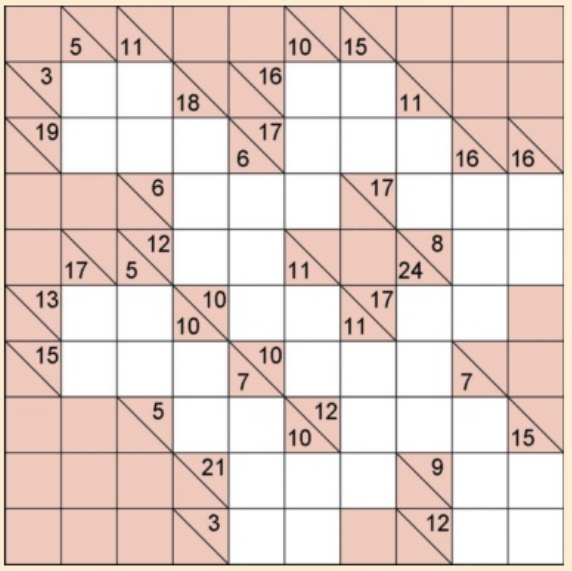
-Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Kakuro

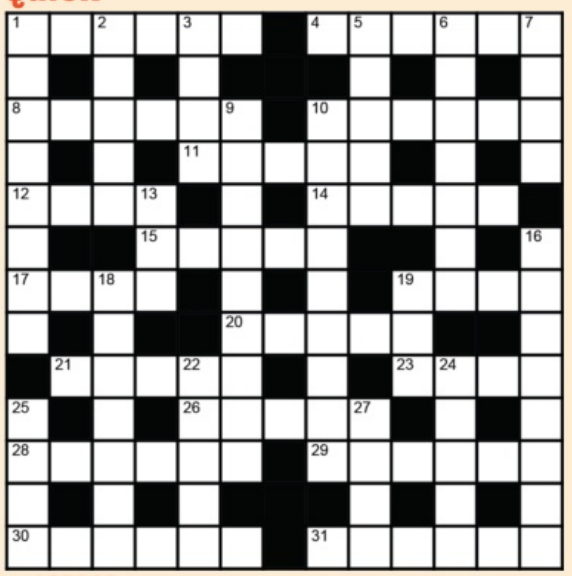
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Scarce, poor (6)
4 Give clear proof of (6)
8 Civilised, refined (6)
10 Deadened or anaesthetized? (6)
11 British scientist ____ Newton (5)
12 Headland (4)
14 Phantom (5)
15 City in Japan (5)
17 Carpentry pin (4)
19 Yes votes (4)
20 Felt sore (5)
21 Spring over (5)
23 Cut, snicker-"seen" anagram? (4)
26 Shouts (5)
28 Emergency (6)
29 First born (6)
30 Allot (6)
31 Complied, concurred or corresponded? (6)

DOWN

1 Grieving for or over (8)
2 Monks or abbots (5)
3 Indian queen (4)
5 Sense with fingers? (5)
6 Ambassador's headquarters (7)
7 Neat (4)
9 Intensifies, ascends or mounts (9)
10 National park home to many tigers and elephants (9)
13 Peruvian coin (3)
16 Expressed forcefully (8)
18 Sloping typeface (7)
19 Some promos (3)
22 Telling porkies (5)
24 Sibling's daughter (5)
25 Eight as a prefix (4)
27 A roughly-shaped bullet (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS G

VBDDI CL S JIJXH BA CRHAACJCHRE EKBONKEL VKCDXCRN SDBORQ S JHREHD BA AHSD.

Linemaro

Within you I lose myself
Without you I find myself
Wanting to be lost again

Mindchow

The only escape from the miseries of life are music and cats

Joke of the day

Teacher: "Amy, what do you call the outside of a tree?" Amy: "No idea miss" Teacher: "Bark, Amy"_ Amy: "Bow Wow Wow Miss"

Loop

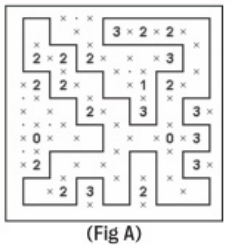
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

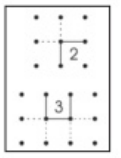
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

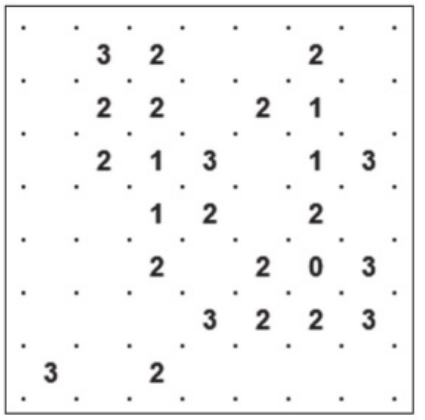
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



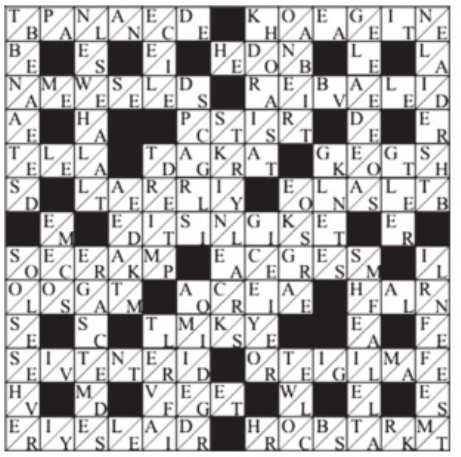
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



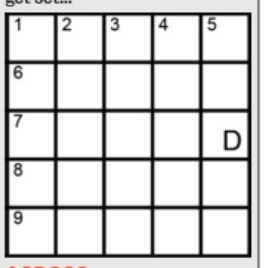
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

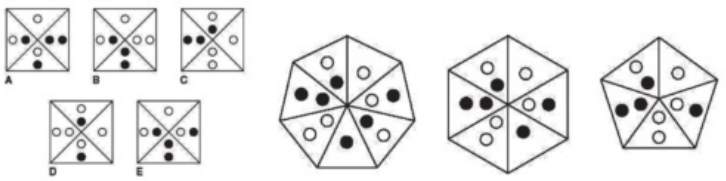
1 Crows; 6 Bleep; 7 Aedes; 8 A seer; 9 De Low

DOWN

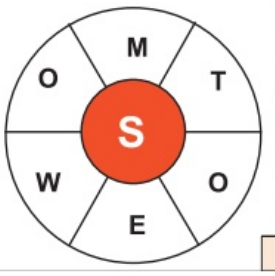
1 Deeps; 2 Carol; 3 Wears; 4 So bee; 5 We led

Mensapuzzle

What comes next?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		1	6	2		3	7	
			7					8
8	6		3				9	1
	1	5						6
7						8	3	
4	5				3		6	9
1					4			
	8	6		5	7	4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

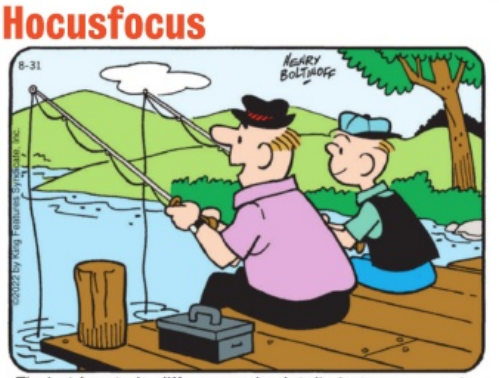
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 1
3 3 3 4

Medium = 16
2 5 6 9

Hard = 4
1 3 5 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

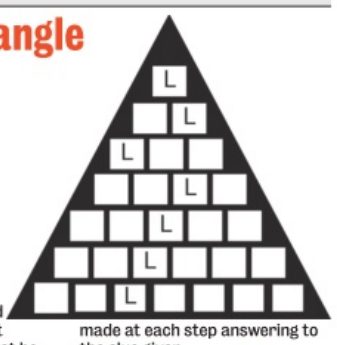
Differences: 1. Box is moved. 2. Bush is taller. 3. Hat is larger. 4. Line is added to board. 5. Cloud is smaller. 6. Mountain is added.

Riddler

What is this word? c o n

Alpha triangle

1 XXV + XXV
2 Spanish article
3 Falsehood
4 Man, for one
5 Resentments
6 Proves false
7 Convictions



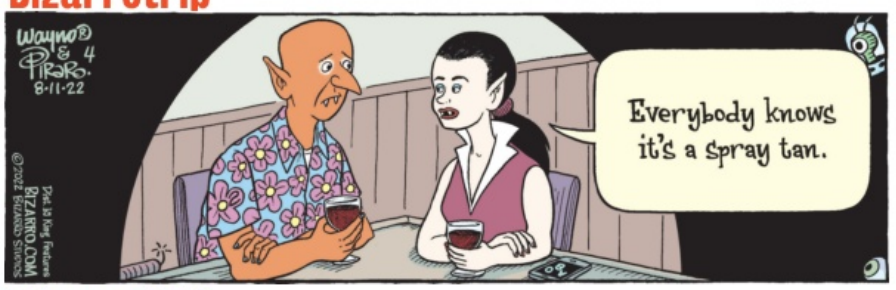
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

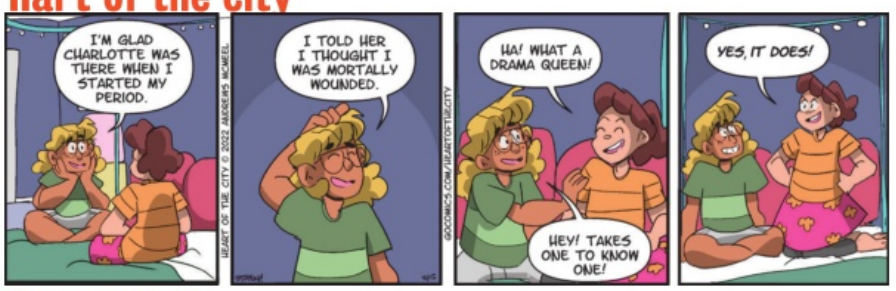
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

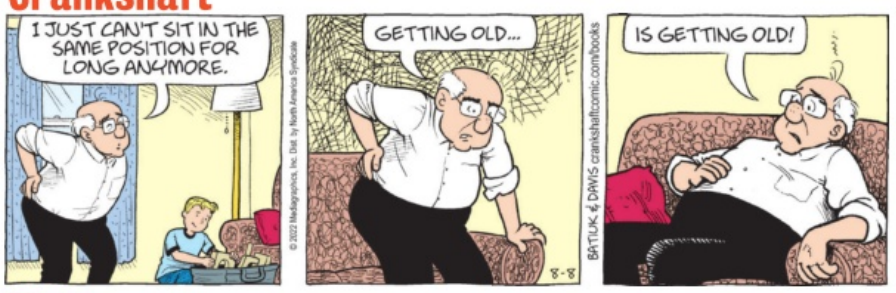


Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work. Your hard work may pay off now. This will boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved. A meeting with some influential person will boost your network. Disputes with your partner may also be resolved.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which will make you happy. You are polite with the people around you. You can make some difficult decisions in business, with the help of your family members. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills, which may grow your business.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may have good internal strength. You may enjoy it at work. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which will improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start a new project. Your perfectionism may help you implement your plans successfully. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your harsh way of speaking to other people around you. Lovebirds should be careful while having discussions on sensitive topics, otherwise their relationship may get affected.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today there may be peace in your mind. You may plan to invest some capital in business, which may increase liquidity. Your earnings may boost your bank balance. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles are likely to find a good match. Lovebirds can decide to get married.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be very happy. Your losses may convert to profits. Your boss may be happy and will appreciate your work. You are likely to have some changes into your place or position at work in terms of promotions. You are likely to have control over opponents and hidden enemies. Lovebirds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today the moon is positive, and your health may be good today. You may visit some spiritual place with family or friends. You may also plan to donate some money to charity or needy people. Property-related deals may likely be done. You may plan for overseas travel related to work. You may also plan for higher education.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today your moon is negative. You may be a victim of conspiracies. You are advised to avoid being involved in controversies. Your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from this messy situation. You are advised to avoid making arguments in your domestic life. You should also avoid rash driving or adventure tours.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be busy at work. You may be enthusiastic, which will speed up your projects. You may be able to make quick decisions, which will grow your business. You are likely to start new innovations in partnership. Investments in fixed assets in partnerships are not advised.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may perform well at work. You may expect some promotions or transfers in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relationship with seniors will be strong. Old health issues will be cured now.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the moon. Things may be under control. You will enjoy it at work. Your focus may be good, which will reflect into your way of working. Your wisdom will help you to go ahead in taking tough decisions in terms of your profession. Your past investments are likely to bring profits.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel dull. You may be dissatisfied. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

KIDZONE

Aaradhya Kulshrestha, 9 Years, Delhi Public School

Aarpm D'souza, 6 Years, St. Francis School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2·1000 = 2·11 =
2·2ˆX/4
2·1011 = 2ˆ(2X/4)
X/2 = 1011
X = 2022

RIDDLER
Condescending

QUOTE UNCODE
Worry is a cycle of inefficient thoughts whirling around a center of fear.

BULL'S EYE
moose, most,
some, soot, stem,
stew, stow,
TWOSOME, west

FAST FIVE

S	C	R	O	W
P	L	E	B	E
E	A	S	E	D
E	R	A	S	E
D	O	W	E	L

STRIKE OUT

T	A	N	N	E	D	■	H	O	A	G	I	E	■	■
E	■	E	■	H	O	B	■	L	■	■	■	■	■	■
N	E	W	E	L	S	■	R	I	B	A	L	D	■	■
E	■	H	■	P	S	S	T	■	D	■	■	E	■	■
T	E	A	■	T	A	K	A	■	K	E	G	S	■	■
S	■	T	A	R	R	Y	■	O	N	S	E	T	■	■
■	E	■	D	I	S	L	I	K	E	■	E	■	■	■
S	C	R	A	M	■	A	C	R	E	S	■	I	■	■
L	O	A	M	■	A	R	I	A	■	H	A	N	■	■
E	■	C	■	L	I	K	E	■	E	■	F	■	■	■
E	V	E	N	E	D	■	R	E	G	I	M	E	■	■
V	■	M	■	V	E	T	■	L	■	L	■	S	■	■
O	■	L	■	Y	E	L	L	S	■	I	■	R	■	■
V	A	U	L	T	■	O	■	S	N	E	E	■	■	■
G	■	T	■	A	C	H	E	D	■	S	■	■	■	■
N	A	I	L	■	L	■	R	■	A	V	E	S	■	■
I	■	O	S	A	K	A	■	S	■	A	■	■	■	■
N	E	S	S	■	C	■	G	H	O	S	T	■	■	■
U	R	B	A	N	E	■	N	U	M	B	E	D	■	■
O	■	B	■	A	■	O	■	M	■	I	■	■	■	■
R	■	E	■	I	S	A	C	■	A	■	■	Y	■	■
T	C	■	N	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	R	I	S	I	S	■	E	L	D	E	S	T

Maternity break

We hear that Alia will take 1 year off after becoming a mom

Mom-to-be Alia Bhatt has been making glamorous appearances about town, showing off her pregnancy glow and baby bump. The actress is set to welcome her first born with Ranbir Kapoor soon and has wrapped all her professional assignments before embracing motherhood.

And looks like Alia is in no hurry to face the camera after turning a mom. The actress reportedly wants to dedicate a lot of her time to her baby and will take a long break for the same. Alia is planning a year-long maternity leave, reports bollywoodlife. She has wrapped the shoot of her Hollywood debut 'Heart of Stone' and has been extensively shooting for Karan Johar's 'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani'. Post delivery, Alia will continue to work on her endorsements and assignments which won't involve long hours. The Kapoor family had recently hosted a low key baby shower for Alia Bhatt.

Ranbir and Alia tied the knot in April this year and in June they announced the news of Alia of being pregnant. ETimes had exclusively reported that Alia will kick start the shoot of Farhan Akhtar helmed 'Jee Le Zaraa' by next year. She plays the lead alongside Priyanka Chopra and Katrina Kaif in this entertainer.

–ETimes

Spooktober flicks: Are you Halloween ready?

Tina Freese
c-tina.freese@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Grab a bowl of popcorn and your cosiest blanket and get ready to be spooked. Now that Halloween season is aboard, Bangalore Mirror is here with some scary movie recommendations.

Here are some kid-friendly starters.

Let us start with a classic. I can't remember a spooky season without watching three witches trying to regain their youth, so, my first suggestion for you is Hocus Pocus. Set in the 1600s in Salem, the story is of three witches - Winifred, Sarah, and Mary - trying to save their youth. It is quirky, and the right amount of scary for your little ones.

The second recommendation is another classic, the 1999 gothic supernatural horror: Sleepy Hollow. Based on a short story, the movie is a tale of a curious investigator probing a series of murders in a hamlet called Sleepy Hollow.

If you are looking for a film that is spooky for kids, but eerily bone-chilling for adults, I have the perfect one for you. Coraline is an animated dark horror fantasy film which revolves around a young and adventurous girl who opens a secret door to a parallel universe with sinister secrets.

The next recommendation is Corpse Bride. It may not scare you, but will surely win your heart. When a nervous Victor accidentally ruins his wedding, he goes to the forest to rehearse his wedding vows with a tree. He places the ring on an upturned root and ends up marrying 'Emily' who rises from the dead to meet her husband.

If you are looking for something that gives your nightmares or takes away your sleep for a couple of nights, I have the best films for you. Keep in mind, these are not kid-friendly.

Ready or Not, Corpse Bride and Pet Sematary are sure to give you the thrills this season

Talking about Halloween movies and not mentioning a Stephen King flick would be unfair. Carrie or The Shining will never disappoint us, but Pet Sematary is as good. The story is of a man who discovers a land where if you bury the dead, they come back. The story is so eerie that King is said to be terrified of it.

This one made me skip dinner when I first watched it. Midsommar is a film that revolves around a couple who visits a village in Sweden with their friends to attend a festival. Things start to go downhill from there. Do not be fooled by the bright and colourful setting of the film, it is dark and gory in the most twisted way.

On a less eerie note, Ready or Not – while more of a slasher comedy than horror, will give you the perfect adrenaline rush. Marriage in itself can be scary, but this movie takes it to the next level. The film is a two-hour-long chase, where the in-laws of a young bride hunt her down on her wedding night with all sorts of weapons in an initiation 'game' of sorts.

I watched this with a full house and we all had to sleep with our lights switched on. The Autopsy of Jane Doe is the story of - as the name suggests - an autopsy, conducted by a father-son duo. The movie gets creepier as they keep unravelling bizarre clues from the murder victim's body.

The list is endless, but here are some honourable mentions: The Orphan, Psycho, A Nightmare on Elm Street, Halloween, Rosemary's Baby, The conjuring, Omen, and Us.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

South rules

The stupendous success of Kannada movies is attracting a lot of talent from neighbouring states too. Manchu Vishnu, the son of veteran actor-producer and politician Mohan Babu, said he too would want to give Kannada movies a shot. Vishnu was elected president of Movie Artistes Association in a stiff competition between panels headed by him and veteran actor Prakash Raj in October 2021.

Manchu Vishnu

"Movies from South India are ruling the roost. The latest example is the success of Kantara which has proved that cinema lovers will watch a movie irrespective of the language if its content is interesting. I do want to act in Kannada movies in the future," said Vishnu.

Vishnu recalled meeting actor Ambareesh in 2012 when he visited Bengaluru to promote his Telugu movie Denikaina Ready. "Ambareesh sir was like my father. He supported and encouraged me those days. After a gap of a decade, I have come to Bengaluru again," said Vishnu.

Vishnu was in town to promote his latest Telugu movie Ginna directed by Suryaah. The movie is set to release on October 21 in Telugu, Hindi, and Malayalam. "I have asked Rockline Venkatesh to release Ginna but he suggested that I contact Venkateswara Reddy of Mukunda Theater to release it in Karnataka," he said.

Venkateswara Reddy said Ginna would be released in Telugu language in Karnataka. "It will be dubbed in Kannada if the Telugu version becomes a success at the box office," he said.

In a new avatar

The team of Vasundara Devi

Dharma Keerthiraj's fans will see their favourite actor in a different avatar in the upcoming film Vasundara Devi. Dharma plays the lead role and Sonu Gowda is paired opposite him.

"I am grateful to my parents for attending the teaser launch. This film is different from the ones I have acted in so far. I have changed my look also for this movie. A big thanks to director Mahesh. All actors have done a good job," said Dharma. Vasundara Devi is Dharma's second film directed by Mahesh Chinmayi. Earlier, he acted in Chanaksha that released in March 2019.

The teaser of Vasundara Devi was released at SRV Theater, Malleswaram on Saturday. On the occasion, director Mahesh said the movie is his fourth one as a director. His other movies are: Sanniha, Keerthigobba, and Chanakshya. "I am confident of Vasundara Devi's success at the box office. Dharma Keerthiraj is playing a different kind of role – a police officer assigned to investigate the murder of the Chief Minister - in this movie. Its story is entirely fictitious and not based on the politics of Karnataka," said Chinmayi.